

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 T-03 INR-09 L-03 M-03 A-01 SS-05

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P 151251 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3474

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0283

STADIS//////////

FOR ATTENTION OF EUR/ NE - SCOTT GEORGE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: US- ICELANDIC DEFENSE FORCE ISSUE SUBSTITUTION OF
OF CONTRACT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

FOL MSG FROM CINCLANT SENT ACTION REYKJAVIK INFO COMICEDEFOR
MAR 15 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

S E C R E T // N03020//

PERSONAL AMBASSADOR IRVING INFO RADM BELING FROM COUSINS
DELIVER DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS

1. (U) REF YOUR FONECON 12 MARCH WITH LEW HOFFACKER ON THE
CONTRACT

(LOCKHEED) CIVILIANIZATION PROPOSAL. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN
EXAMINED HERE BUT HAS NOT BEEN STAFFED AT THE WASHINGTON LEVEL AND
THEREFORE IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AND BACKGROUND, BUT OF
COURSE CANNOT FORM A BASIS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OR COMMITMENT TO
THE
FONMIN.

2. (S) IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FONMIN THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE
CONSIDERED TO BE GERMANE:

A. THE JCS CONSIDER THAT... NONE OF THE PROPOSED (SUBSTITUTION
STUDIES) CONVERSIONS SHOULD BE MADE, PENDING CONCLUSION OF...
DEFENSE
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

B. INTRODUCTION OF CIVILIANS INTO THE IDF, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER
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THEY BE ICELANDERS OR U. S. CONTRACT PERSONNEL, WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE

THE MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE IDF TO DEFEND THE ISLAND.

C. ANY OFFER FOR REDUCTION OF MILITARY STRENGTH GOES COUNTER TO PREVIOUS U. S. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE ICELANDERS THAT THE CURRENT

MILITARY STRENGTH IS THE BARE MINIMUM TO PERFORM THE IDF ROLE. HOWEVER, AGREEING TO USING ICELANDERS OR U. S. CONTRACT PERSONNEL COULD BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS THE ICELANDERS CAN BE CONVINCED THAT A SMALL INCREMENTAL CHANGE IN MILITARY MANPOWER WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY DEGRADE THE IDF. THIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, HAS THE POTENTIAL TRAP OF CAUSING A CREDIBILITY GAP BECAUSE OF THE PREVIOUS INSISTENCE THAT THE IDF IS NOW MINIMALLY MANNED.

D. FILLING THE POSITIONS WITH CIVILIANS COULD BE DIFFICULT DUE TO ICELAND'S LABOR PICTURE, THE PROBABLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING U. S. CIVILIANS TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT THERE, OR THE HOUSING PROBLEM. RESULT OF NOT FILLING THE JOB COULD BE JOB ELIMINATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BUDGET AND CEILING REVIEWS; ANY SUCH ELIMINATIONS COULD HAVE UNDESIRABLE MILITARY STRENGTH AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

3. (U) FOLLOWING GENERAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON USE OF CONTRACTORS AT SOME MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

A. CONTRACTORS ARE CURRENTLY USED FOR MANY FUNCTIONS FROM PARTIAL BASE SUPPORT TO FULL BASE OPERATIONS.

(1) EXAMPLES OF PARTIAL CONTRACT SUPPORT: MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT; MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES BASE BUS SERVICE; LAUNDRY SERVICE; OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE; JANITORIAL SERVICE; FOOD SERVICE; SEWAGE AND WASTE DISPOSAL.

(2) EXAMPLES OF TOTAL CONTRACT SUPPORT:

(A) VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA OPERATED BY CONTRACTOR IN SUPPORT OF PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. TRAINING DONE BY USAF PERSONNEL BUT THE BASE IS OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY CONTRACTOR.

(B) AIRFIELD AT ELEUTHERA IS OPERATED BY CONTRACT PERSONNEL,

AIRFIELD USED TO SUPPORT U. S. NAVAL FACILITY ON ISLAND; NO SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY INVOLVED IN MISSION OF NAVFAC ELEUTHERA.

B. USE OF CONTRACTORS HAS GENERALLY PROVIDED SATISFACTORY SERVICE WHERE USED. MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN OVER COST, I. E. COST ENDS UP BEING GREATER THAN PROGRAMMED WHICH CREATES BUDGET AND REPROGRAMMING DIFFICULTIES.

4. (U) WARM REGARDS.

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